

Message Text

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40

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 AF-10 SAB-01 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 131340Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5692

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1234

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP PFOR EG

SUBJECT: REPORTED DECISION TO DEMOBILIZE PART OF EGYPTIAN
ARMED FORCES

REF: TEL AVIV 1447

1. ON SAME DAY THAT AMIN WROTE ABOUT LIFTING OF PRESS
CENSORSHIP--WHICH HAS NOT YET OCCURED IN ANY MEANINGFUL SENSE--
HE WROTE SEPARATE ARTICLE STATING THAT SADAT HAD BEEN THINKING
ABOUT FUTURE OF EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS. SADAT, HE SAID, BELIEVED
THAT EGYPT SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DO MORE FOR THEM THAN MERELY
PROVIDE AN EXISTENCE, AND HE HAD THEREFORE DECIDED TO CREATE
BOARD OF EXPERTS TO LOOK INTO EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF MEMBERS OF
ARMED FORCES WITH A VIEW TOWARD ESTABLISHING CORRESPONDENCE
COURSES FOR THEM WHILE THEY CONTINUED TO SERVE, IN PREPARATION
FOR FURTHER EDUCATION AFTER THEIR DISCHARGE. AMIN NOTES THAT
SADAT TOLD HIM "THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE WAR HAS ENDED.
IT IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT WAR WILL OCCUR AT ANY MOMENT IF IT
APPEARS THAT ISRAEL IS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT WITHDRAWING FROM
THE ARAB TERRITORIES OR THAT IT IS DELAYING IN RETURNING
TO THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE THEIR RIGHTS."

2. COMMENT: AMIN'S ARTICLE DID NOT STATE THAT SADAT HAS
DECIDED TO DECREASE THE SIZE OF EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES. FOR
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VARIOUS REASONS WE DO NOT THINK SADAT WOULD SAY THIS FOR

PUBLIC CONSUMPTION. ONE IS THE FACT THAT UNTIL EGYPT'S
BASIC ME SETTLEMENT REQUIREMENTS ARE CLOSE TO BEING MET, THERE
WILL BE SUFFICIENT DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO SUCH A MOVE THAT
SADAT WOULD NOT WISH TO SHOW HE IS LETTING DOWN HIS GUARD.
SECONDLY, HE IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO CHARGES BY OTHER ARABS
THAT HE IS PREPARING TO SELL OUT ARAB CAUSE, AND SUCH CHARGES
COULD BE TRIGGERED BY THIS KIND OF STATEMENT. NOT ONLY WOULD
HIS SENSE OF ISOLATION BE INCREASED, BUT HIS LEVERAGE WITH SYRIA
AND THE PALESTINIANS AT A PARTICULARLY DELICATE TIME WOULD BE
DIMINISHED THEREBY. SADAT AND GOE CONTINUE TO BE AT PAINS TO
SHOW THAT, WHILE EGYPT IS ABOUT TO RECONSTRUCT CANAL CITIES,
IT IS STILL IN STATE OF MILITARY CRISIS; THAT WHILE IT IS
LIBERALIZING, IT IS STILL SOCIALIST; THAT IT HAS CHOSEN THE
AMERICAN PATH TO PEACE BUT HAS NOT ABANDONED ITS SOVIET FRIENDS,
ETC: THE PUBLIC DUALITIES ARE EVERYWHERE TO BE SEEN AND THE
GOVERNMENT SOMETIMES HAS A HARD JOB OF IT TO FIND ADEQUATE
RETIONALIZATIONS.
EILTS

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